

Announcement of an effort to restore water quality in Bull Creek in Buchanan County, Virginia.

PUBLIC MEETING LOCATION: Harman Memorial Baptist Church Christian Center, on Route 609 off Route 460 in Maxie, Virginia, on Thursday, March 20, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The To seek public comment and announce a public meeting on a water quality improvement study by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Mines Minerals and Energy and the Department of Conservation and Recreation for Bull Creek in Southwest Virginia.

MEETING DESCRIPTION: Final public meeting on a study to restore water quality

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: DEQ has been working to identify sources of pollutants affecting the aquatic organisms in the waters of Bull Creek. Bull Creek is in Buchanan County and flows along Route 609 to Levisa Fork downstream of Grundy, Virginia. The “impaired” stream segments are estimated to be approximately 16.9 miles including Bull Creek, from the headwaters to the confluence with Levisa Fork, and all tributaries; Belcher Branch, Deel Fork, Burnt Poplar Branch, Big Branch, Starr Branch, Jess Fork, and Convict Hollow. The stream is impaired for failing to meet the *Aquatic Life Use* based on violations of the general standard for aquatic organisms.

During the study, the pollutants impairing the aquatic community will be identified and total maximum daily loads, or TMDLs, developed for the impaired waters. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can contain and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels must be reduced to the TMDL amount.

HOW A DECISION IS MADE: The development of a TMDL includes public meetings and a public comment period once the study report is drafted. After public comments

have been considered and addressed, DEQ will submit the TMDL report to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

HOW TO COMMENT: DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax or postal mail. Written comments should include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ during the comment period, March 20, 2008 to April 21, 2008. DEQ also accepts written and oral comments at the public meeting announced in this notice.

TO REVIEW DRAFT TMDL REPORT: The draft TMDL report on the impaired waters is available after March 19, 2008 from the contact below or on the DEQ web site at www.deq.virginia.gov/tmdl.

CONTACT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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